(b) to (d) Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has so far granted 33 licences in Delhi and Noida for Packaged Drinking Water as per IS 14543:1998. The Government of India in the notifications No. GSR 759 (E) & GSR 760 (E) dated 29th September, 2000, issued by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, have brought Natural Mineral Water and Packaged Drinking Water under the compulsory certification scheme of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) with effect from 29-03-2001. It is, therefore, mandatory for Natural Mineral Water & Pakaged Drinking Water sold in India to carry the BIS Standard Mark. BIS has conducted two search and seizure operations against manufacturers of packaged Drinking Water who were marking the product with the BIS Standard Mark without a valid licence from BIS. Prosecution is being launched by BIS against both the firms under the BIS Act. Action against firm manufacturing Packaged Drinking Water without BIS Mark is taken by the State Government under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act.

Free Distribution of Foodgrains

931. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to distribute 50 lakh tonnes of foodgrains free of cost to take up wage employment works;

(b) if so, what is the difference between 'Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana' and 'food for work scheme'; and

(c) the details of the allocation of foodgrains under various schemes to the State since 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) The Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) envisages distribution of 50 lakh tonnes of foodgrains annually free of cost.

(b) Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana was launched w.e.f 25.09.2001 with an outlay of 10,000 crores. Under the scheme, 50 lakh tonnes of foodgrains valued at Rs. 5000 crores are provided free of cost to States/ UTs. The remaining funds are to be utilized to meet the case component of wages and material cost. The cash component of the scheme is to be shared between the Centre and the States in the ratio of 75:25. The Food

for Work Programme was in operation during January, 2001 and March, 2002 and under this programme eleven States affected by Natural Calamities were provided foodgrains free of cost.

(c) Statement I and II showing foodgrains allocated under Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana and Food for Work Programme since 2000-2001 are annexed.

[Refer to the Statement-I and II appended to the Answer to Unstarred Question No. 918.]

Purchase Tax on procurement of foodgrains

932. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has proposed to prevent States from milking Government to the tune of Rs. 3,000 crore annually in the form of a purchase tax on the foodgrains procured from their farmers;

(b) if so, whether Government has decided to pit the farmers, the beneficiaries of procurement, against their State Governments to bring the tax down;

(c) if so, whether any legislation in this regard is being considered; and

(d) if so, by when this legislation is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) to (d) Certain States have been imposing heavy taxes/levies on procurement of foodgrains, which has contributed to the increase in the food subsidy. It was decided by the Government that from Kharif 2002, the element of States Taxes levied on the procurement price would be limited to 4% of MSP and any State taxes in excess of 4% would be contained within the MSP. However, the Ministry of Agriculture is reconsidering this decision.